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'All God's Promises are Yes & Amen' by Katherine Hilditch

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ALL GOD'S PROMISES ARE YES AND AMEN

Our world in general doesn't hold much store by promises today. We are used to political parties making promises in their manifesto and then never fulfilling them when they are elected. When some people make a promise you feel you can trust them to do it, but with others you have your doubts —they may not bother or just forget. But a promise by definition is declaring something will be done no matter what.

God's promises aren't like those the world so often makes. In <u>Psalm 89:34</u> He says — "I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered." God's promises are the only ones we can totally rely on. <u>2 Peter 1:4</u> says that He has given us — 'his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature.' God has given us His 'precious and exceedingly great promises' so that, as they are fulfilled in our life, we will take on His nature. That's some promise about promises!

Better Promises!

Under the Old Covenant law there were blessings for when people kept the rules and curses for when they didn't. You can read them all in <u>Deuteronomy 28</u>. God wanted the people to know that they could never earn a relationship with Him by their own efforts and recognise that they needed a saviour. And that saviour was Jesus. When He suffered and died on the Cross and rose again, He brought in a New Covenant which was based on grace instead of performance. That's why <u>Hebrews 8:6</u> says that Jesus is now – 'the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.' (King James Version)

There are wonderful promises for us in the Old Covenant, but even better ones in the New, as only after Jesus died and rose again could the promises of salvation by grace, freedom and healing etc become reality in our lives. <u>Galatians 3:13-14</u> then says - 'Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us."' So not only do we have better promises, but the curses of the Old Covenant have been reversed and their opposites are now ours as blessings.

"Do I Qualify for Them?"

The answer to this question is actually very simple. If you are born-again it is 'yes', and if you are not it is 'no'. So the question is, have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? If so, then you qualify for God's promises – not just for some, but for all. (To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.) 1 John 2:25 says – 'This is the promise which he promised us, the eternal life.' When we are born-again, God fulfils this amazing promise in us – He gives us eternal life which is a love relationship with Him and with Jesus both in this life and for eternity. You can't get a better promise than that!

God's Promises

God has given us so many promises in His Word. First, here are a couple from the Old Covenant:

<u>Isaiah 26:3</u> – 'You will keep whoever's mind is steadfast in perfect peace, because he trusts in you.' God promises to give us peace no matter what, when we keep our focus on Him.

<u>Isaiah 41:10</u> – 'Don't you be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.'

And here are three from the New Covenant:

Matthew 28:20 – "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Philippians 4:6-7 – 'In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.'

Revelation 3:5 – 'He who overcomes will be arrayed in white garments, and I will in no way blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.'

His "Yes" and Our "Amen"

<u>2 Corinthians 1:20</u> says – 'For however many are the promises of God, in him is the "Yes." Therefore also through him is the "Amen", to the glory of God through us.' Through His complete victory on the Cross, Jesus has said "Yes" to every promise God has made in His Word in the Old Testament and every promise Jesus spoke during His life on earth and every promise which was yet to be written in the letters of the New Testament and Revelation. When He said "Yes", every promise became fulfilled in the spiritual realm. In effect He put His seal on each one of them for us.

Jesus has said "Yes" to God's promises, but it is us who have to say "Amen". Some of the promises are conditional and we need to comply with the conditions but Jesus has said "Yes" to all of them for us. They are all ours to say "Amen" to. What we're saying by "Amen" to any of God's promises is "So be it. I believe this promise of God and I choose to take hold of it, expecting with complete certainty that it will be fulfilled in my life." It is our

"Amen" that opens the seal to bring the fulfilment of God's promises from the spiritual realm into our physical realm.

Seeing the Fulfilment

Let's look at three things which all play their part in our "Amen".

Knowledge

<u>2 Peter 1:2-4</u> says – 'Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ seeing that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature.' The more we know God in relationship and the more we understand His truth, the more we will see the reality of His 'precious and exceedingly great promises' in our lives. Get into the Word and discover the truth. There is a wonderful promise for us in <u>John 8:31-32</u> – "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. ³² You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Faith

Faith was the key in both these two Old Testament examples.

God promised Abraham that he and his wife would have a baby even though he was 75 and she was 65. Abraham was a wonderful example of faith in God's promise even though it seemed impossible and took 25 years to become reality. Romans 4:20-21 says — 'Yet, looking to the promise of God, he (Abraham) didn't waver through unbelief, but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was also able to perform.'

When God promised Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, the Saviour of the world, she chose to believe. And when Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth proclaimed in <u>Luke 1:45</u> – "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfilment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord!"

Patience

A promise is always about the future and therefore there is a time of waiting. It could be a short time or many years like it was for Abraham. But waiting brings its own challenge. We can have faith in the promise when we first hear it or read it in God's Word, but struggle as time goes by. Hebrews 10:36 says — 'For you need endurance so that, having done the will of God, you may receive the promise.' We need to know and remember that faith isn't an emotion, it's a decision to continue to believe for however long it takes — that's patience. Hebrews 6:11-12 tells us to be — 'imitators of those who through faith and perseverance inherited the promises.'

What If?

So what if we're not seeing the fulfilment of God's promises? We've looked at the importance of knowledge, faith and patience, so does that mean that it must be our fault? Well maybe it is, but there are other possible factors too. However, if it is us that's the problem, then let's take heart – that is actually good news because we can do something about ourselves.

Don't be passive

In <u>Matthew 11:12</u> Jesus says – "From the days of John the Baptiser until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." We associate 'violence' and 'violent'

with evil. But Jesus isn't talking about evil people taking His kingdom – that isn't possible. He's talking about people with spiritual determination. He is saying that we need to be bold and persistent in our faith to fully partake of His blessings and promises.

So many Christians have a 'whatever will be, will be' approach to their faith. They think, if God wants to bless me He will and if He doesn't He won't. This is not what the Word says. Instead of sitting back and hoping for the best, we need to be proactive, determined and unwavering. It's quite a challenge and we'll never do it perfectly, but Jesus always helps us. Towards the end of his life, Paul was able to say in 2 Timothy 4:7 – 'I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.'

Deal with unbelief

Jesus promises us that we only need a small amount of faith to see problems move. He said in Matthew 17:20 – 'For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." A mustard seed is tiny so the issue isn't the size of our faith, it's whether we use it or if we have any unbelief alongside it.

When Jairus was told that his daughter had died, Jesus said to him in <u>Luke 8:50</u> – 'Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be healed." Fear is unbelief. Jesus told him to <u>only</u> believe. Another father who asked Jesus to heal his son, knew he had both faith and unbelief, saying in <u>Mark 9:24</u> – "I believe. Help my unbelief!"

Instead of worrying about the size of your faith, determine to do away with unbelief by focusing on God's truth. Declare His promises out loud, thanking Him for them and for all Jesus has done and won for you. Unbelief will wither and faith will rise.

Resist Satan

Satan doesn't want us to enjoy any of the blessings of God's promises. If he's whispering doubt in your ear or if things seem to be conspiring against you to stop the promises becoming reality, then God tells us to resist him. He doesn't say, ask Me to get rid of him — He says in <u>James 4:7</u> — Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.' We are to submit to God and his truth and then in the name of Jesus we can order Satan to go and he will flee from us.

Avoid the unbelief of others

Even Jesus, who had perfect faith, was limited in what he could do when He met unbelief. Mark 6:5-6 says – 'He could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶He marvelled because of their unbelief.' This was in Nazareth where He grew up. The people knew Him so well that they refused to believe in Him. It doesn't say He 'wouldn't' do any mighty works, but He 'couldn't'.

When Jesus went to Jairus' house to raise his daughter from the dead, He found people in uproar. Mark 5:40 says – 'But he, having put them all out, took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him, and went in where the child was lying.' He sent everyone with unbelief outside and only kept with him those with faith, while He brought the child back to life.

If Jesus had to separate people from doubt and unbelief to see the fulfilment of God's promises, then we need to as well. Don't share your expectation with those who will ridicule you or express doubt, and don't sit under teaching that says God's promises aren't for us today. Instead, find someone who will stand with you in faith to encourage you and rejoice with you even before you see the promises come to pass.

God is Faithful

Whether we are struggling with unbelief or not, or whether Satan is trying to stop us being blessed or not or whether people around us are speaking unbelief or not, of one thing we can be absolutely certain — God remains faithful to His promises. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 says — 'He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it.' Jesus has declared "Yes" over all God's promises for us and He will fulfil them in our lives when we truly say "Amen". So let's choose to believe it and as it says in Hebrews 10:23 — 'let's hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful.' Hallelujah!

Being Born-Again

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you become born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says — 'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Say this prayer out loud and believe it in your heart — "Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my forgiveness and my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour."

You are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. All your sins are forgiven, past, present and future, and you have a new perfect spirit. And after this life is over, you'll live in love, peace and joy with your Father God for ever.

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God's Word is full of so many wonderful promises for us as His children.

Jesus has said "Yes" to each one of them for us and is waiting for us to say "Amen".

But how do we see them fulfilled in our life?

Discover what may be stopping them becoming reality and what we can do about it.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the

booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to —

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